

**AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS**

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 5 and 6 have been previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, claim 1 is currently amended, and no claims are newly presented.

1. (Currently Amended) An attenuator system for adjusting the output power of an HF signal source, coupled to an output-power setting mechanism, the attenuator system comprising:  
  
an electronic attenuator;  
  
a mechanical changeover switch at an input-end of the electronic attenuator;  
  
a mechanical changeover switch at an output-end of the electronic attenuator; and  
  
a switchgear for the mechanical changeover switches coupled to the output-power setting mechanism of the signal source wherein, above a predetermined output power, the mechanical changeover switches are configured in a first switch position whereby a direct bypass line is connected between the signal source and output, and below the predetermined output power, the mechanical changeover switches are configured in a second switch position whereby the electronic attenuator is connected between the signal source and output.
  
2. (Previously Presented) An attenuator system according to claim 1, wherein  
  
the direct bypass line is formed as a mechanical attenuator, which is switched via mechanical switches between a plurality of attenuation values.

3. (Previously Presented) An attenuator system according to claim 1, wherein  
the mechanical changeover switches are bi-stable coaxial relay changeover switches.
4. (Previously Presented) An attenuator system according to claim 1, wherein  
the mechanical changeover switches are transfer switches.
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) An attenuator system for adjusting the output power of an HF signal source, the attenuator system comprising:  
an electronic attenuator;  
a mechanical changeover switch at an input-end of the electronic attenuator;  
a mechanical changeover switch at an output-end of the electronic attenuator; and  
a switchgear of the mechanical changeover switches coupled to an over-voltage detector assigned to the output of the signal source,  
wherein the electronic attenuator is arranged between the signal source and an output,  
and the mechanical changeover switches are configured for switching to a first switching position wherein the electronic attenuator is connected between the signal source and the output, and a second switching position wherein a direct bypass line is connected between the signal source and the output, so that if a predetermined permitted level is

exceeded at the output, the mechanical changeover switch at the output-end disconnects the electronic attenuator from the output, and the mechanical changeover switch at the input-end connects the electronic attenuator to the signal source.